



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/648,655	08/25/2000	Steven E. Bierenbaum	5053-26801	6374

7590 02/03/2004

Eric B Meyertons
Conley Rose & Tayon
P O Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398

EXAMINER

CHEUNG, MARY DA ZHI WANG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3621

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/648,655

Applicant(s)

BIERENBAUM, STEVEN E.

Examiner

Mary Cheung

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8,9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claims

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on November 24, 2003. Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 23-25 and 27-28 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed November 24, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that displaying of various folders in Malone's teaching (U. S. Patent 5,900,870) does not correspond to displaying of a channel template, examiner respectfully disagrees because each folder in Malone's teaching represent a group of object collections, such as templates (column 9 lines 26-28 and Fig. 3).

Applicant further argues that Malone does not teach specifying a translator on the first channel template. The translator as claimed by the applicant is used for converting messages into recognizable formats. Malone teaches converting a message into a format that the receiver is able read, which implies that the translator has been specified to the receiver prior to the receiver reads the message from the incoming message folder. Thus, a translator has been specified on a message folder/channel template.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 17 and 19 recite the limitation "the computer programs" in line 1 of each of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. For examining purpose, claims 17 and 19 are interpreted to depend on claim 13 instead of claim 12.

Claims 18 and 20 are rejected for incorporating the errors of their respective base claims by dependency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malone et al., U. S. Patent 5,900,870 in view of Knowlton et al., U. S. Patent 6,061,057.

As to claims 1, 3 and 11, Malone teaches a method comprising:

a) Displaying a first outbound/inbound message template on a display screen, wherein the first outbound/inbound message template represent a first outbound/inbound message (column 8 lines 29-37, 56-58 and column 13 lines 13-35 and column 22 lines 28-41 and Figs. 3, 22-24);

Art Unit: 3621

- b) Displaying a list of outbound/inbound data elements on the display screen, wherein each outbound data element represents data necessary to access the outbound message from an external computer system, and each inbound data element retrieved from the external computer system based on the data sent to the external computer system (Figs. 8, 11-15, 23-24);
- c) Selecting a first outbound/inbound data element from the display list of outbound/inbound data elements (Figs. 8, 11-15, 23-24);
- d) Adding the selected first outbound/inbound data element to the first outbound/inbound message template (column 10 lines 41-46 and column 21 line 66 – column 22 line 20);
- e) Storing the first outbound/inbound message template in a database after the selected first outbound/inbound data element is added to the first outbound/inbound message template (column 12 lines 60-67);
- f) Displaying a first channel template (a first folder template) on a display screen, wherein the first channel template represents a first channel, wherein the first channel represents a means for transmitting data to and from external computer system (column 9 lines 26-28 and column 12 lines 21-38);
- g) Specifying a first translator on the first channel template wherein the first translator is configured to convert the first outbound message template to a format recognizable to the external computer system (column 13 lines 22-27 and column 19 lines 62-67);

Art Unit: 3621

h) Storing the first channel template in the database after the first translator is specified on the first channel template (column 9 lines 26-28 and column 12 lines 21-38, 60-67).

Malone does not specifically teach the usage environment of the method is for processing a transaction between a financial service organization and a financial service organization customer. However, Knowlton teaches a method is used for process a transaction between a financial service organization and a financial service organization customer (abstract and column 9 lines 30-39). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the teachings of Malone to be used for processing a transaction between a financial service organization and a financial service organization customer because this would expand the usage environment of Malone and attract more people to use this method.

As to claims 2 and 4, Malone does not specifically teach using dragging and dropping for adding the selected first outbound/inbound data element. However, Knowlton teaches using dragging and dropping for adding elements (column 12 lines 3-18). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the adding method of Malone to including using dragging and dropping technique because this would allow the user to fast and easily adding elements.

As to claims 5 and 6, Malone further teaches:

a) Displaying an outbound/inbound message layout template on the display screen, wherein the outbound/inbound message layout template represent a

graphical presentation of the outbound/inbound message (column 9 lines 46-66 and Figs. 3, 7C);

b) Displaying a list of outbound/inbound layout elements on the display screen (Figs. 3, 7C, 8, 11-15, 23-24);

c) Selecting a first outbound/inbound layout element from the display list of outbound/inbound data elements (Figs. 3, 7C, 8, 11-15, 23-24);

d) Adding the selected first outbound/inbound layout element to the first outbound/inbound message layout template (column 10 lines 41-46 and column 21 line 66 – column 22 line 20);

e) Storing the first outbound/inbound layout message template in a database after the selected first outbound/inbound layout element is added to the first outbound/inbound message template (column 12 lines 60-67).

As to claims 7 and 10, Malone further teaches:

a) Displaying a strategy design template on the display screen, wherein the strategy design template represent a process, the process comprising a plurality of tasks, wherein tasks are executed in a sequential order (column 5 lines 35-56 and column 11 lines 7-67 and Fig. 4);

b) Displaying a plurality of tasks on the display screen (column 5 lines 35-56 and column 11 lines 7-67 and Fig. 4);

c) Selecting a first of the plurality of displayed tasks (column 5 lines 35-56 and column 11 lines 7-67 and Fig. 4);

- d) Adding the selected first task to the process (column 5 lines 35-56 and column 11 lines 7-67 and Fig. 4);
- e) Storing the strategy design template in the database after the selected first task is added to the strategy design (column 5 lines 35-56 and column 11 lines 7-67 and Fig. 4).

Malone does not specifically teach the process is used for processing a transaction between a financial service organization and a financial service organization customer. However, Knowlton teaches a process is used for processing a transaction between a financial service organization and a financial service organization customer (abstract and column 9 lines 30-39). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the teachings of Malone to be used for processing a transaction between a financial service organization and a financial service organization customer because this would expand the usage environment of Malone and attract more people to use this method.

As to claim 8, Malone teaches adding the selected first task to the process further comprises:

- a) Inserting the selected first task either before or after an existing ordered task of the plurality of ordered tasks (column 7 line 58 – column 8 line 17 and column 11 lines 7-42 and column 16 lines 55-59 and column 17 lines 36-40 and Fig. 15);
- b) Displaying a plurality of pairs of outbound and inbound template message identifiers on the display screen, wherein the plurality of pairs of outbound and inbound template message identifiers comprise a first pair of outbound and

inbound template message identifiers wherein the first pair of outbound and inbound template message identifiers represent the first outbound message request and the first inbound message receipt (Figs. 12-16);

c) Selecting the first pair of outbound and inbound template message identifiers (Figs. 12-16);

d) Adding the selected first pair of outbound and inbound template message identifiers to the selected first task (Figs. 12-16);

e) Storing the selected first task in the database after the first pair of outbound and inbound template message identifiers is added to the selected first task (column 12 lines 60-67).

As to claim 9, Malone further teaches specifying a first queue handler that moves translated messages between systems (column 11 lines 26-67 and Figs. 4-5). Malone does not specifically teach the usage environment of the method is for a financial service organization. However, Knowlton teaches a process is used for processing a transaction for a financial service organization (abstract and column 9 lines 30-39). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the teachings of Malone to be used for processing a transaction for a financial service organization because this would expand the usage environment of Malone and attract more people to use this method.

As to claim 12, Malone modified by Knowlton does not specifically teach the method is used for a customer's delinquency status relating to an existing financial service organization product or service. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

Art Unit: 3621

skill in the art to allow the teachings of Malone modified by Knowlton to be used for a customer's delinquency status relating to an existing financial service organization product or service because this would expand the usage environment of the teachings of Malone modified by Knowlton and attract more people to use this method for efficiently creating, sending and receiving messages.

Claims 13-28 are rejected for the similar reasons as claims 1, 3 and 5-10.

Conclusion

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Inquire

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Cheung whose telephone number is (703)-305-0084. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell, can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.


The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceedings is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 (Official Communications; including After Final
Communications labeled "BOX AF")

(703) 746-5619 (Draft Communications)

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, 7th Floor Receptionist.

Mary Cheung
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3621
January 26, 2004


JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600